

# Naturalizing Your Community

Natural environments benefit all living things. Sometimes we do not take care of our natural environment as much as we should. How do you think you can help a natural environment near your home or school? Can you help an environment like the volunteers did in “A Walk in the Park”?

It is important for you to start thinking like a naturalist while you read through this unit. Naturalists defend and protect nature, and they also educate others about ways they can help preserve local species and habitats. Thinking like a naturalist will help you to prepare for the Unit Task.

In this Unit Task, you will select an area in your community that would benefit from “naturalization”—adding plants and changing the landscape in a way that will attract local animals and also make it attractive to humans.



You will analyze the area you select and create a plan to naturalize the area in a way that reflects the local natural environment. You will study your selected area and identify factors that must be considered to ensure the plan will be successful. The plan must involve both living and non-living elements, as well as the needs of the people in the area.

**Unit Task** By the end of the Interactions in the Environment unit, you will be able to demonstrate your learning by completing this Unit Task. As you work through the unit, continue to think about how you might meet this challenge. Read the detailed description of the Unit Task on page 168, and look for the Unit Task icon at the end of selected sections for hints related to the task.

## Assessment

You will be assessed on how well you

- show your knowledge and understanding of the local ecosystem
- develop a reasonable plan to naturalize your area
- propose practical solutions for naturalizing your area
- evaluate the impact your plan will have on living things that will inhabit the area, as well as on humans living nearby